

JAMES H. ENGLISH.

APRIL 11, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SCOTT, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 7701.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7701) granting an increase of pension to James H. English, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted and the passage of the bill is recommended.

The House report is as follows:

James H. English, now 84 years of age, served as a private in Company E, Fifty-second Pennsylvania Infantry, from September 25, 1861, to August 8, 1862, when discharged on surgeon's certificate of disability by reason of hypertrophy of the heart.

The files of the Pension Bureau show that he is now pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, at \$12 per month for total disability, the result of rheumatism, disease of eyes, and general debility.

His claim to pension under the general law, filed in June, 1880, and based upon an injury to the side, disease of right leg, and affection of sight, was rejected in March, 1888, upon the ground of no record of treatment for said disabilities in the War Department and the claimant's declared inability to furnish the necessary evidence showing the origin of said disabilities in service and line of duty.

When last examined, on January 15, 1896, the board of surgeons stated as follows: "Is nearly totally blind in both eyes. Can not distinguish anything with either eye. Requires a constant attendant when he goes out. Has a very irritable and weak heart and is completely broken down. Has cataract of both eyes. Has had the right operated upon, but without success. The injury of the knee is an inflammatory deposit in the sheath of the tendon of the lower leg, which has become chronic. Is an old and feeble man and wholly unfit to perform manual labor."

Testimony filed with your committee shows that in December, 1899, the beneficiary slipped on the ice, fell, and struck his hip and right leg, since which time he has had no use of the same; that he can only move about the house with the assistance of crutches, and is totally disabled from performing manual labor on account of that condition and his blindness; that he is totally blind and partially deaf; is very poor, and has nothing to depend upon for a living except the pension of \$12 per month.

An increase of pension for this aged, destitute, and well-nigh helpless soldier is manifestly proper.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended.